



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: August 12, 2004

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chairperson Phil Worby (QC Labs) called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. Vinny Makfinsky (JMEUC) made a motion to approve the minutes with one name correction. The motion was seconded by Henni Krawtschenko (EWMUA/AEA).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the new Database NJEMS 5.1 is on line. All labs except for NELAC laboratories (working on new format) should have their ACPL's at this time. Ms. Werner states that the WP-PT results have been sent out by APG even though there is a problem with the limits for the phenols and di-n-butyl phthalate analysis. Ms. Werner states that the assigned values are not in the range and that this may invalidate the study for these analytes. Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) says the PT board met and Tom Coyner of APG filed a complaint with the PT board. The issue with di-n-butyl phthalate is that the statistical curves cross at the low end and this makes a difficult determination at low concentrations. Dr. Miller states new equations for acceptance are being reviewed by the NELAC PT Board. In the future the concentration level should be higher. Dr. Miller states the Accrediting Authorities will make the final determination of acceptance. Values will be submitted to the PT board next week. A ruling will come from the Office of Water – WP section, Washington, DC.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that Tom Coyner (APG) told her the AA's are not evaluating that data and that labs will get credit for the study with no repeats. NELAC labs will do the study again in six months.

Ms. Werner reports that SPEX will send results out today for the SHW –TCLP study. There are some issues with the VHS data. There will be letters sent out for failures and non-submittals. Ms. Werner says Joe Aiello has decided that the SHW study for TCLP will be enforced. October makeup study orders should be placed.

Ms. Werner states that the DW-PT study that shipped out in July closes next week. Any lab that fails an analyte should expect receipt of a letter from enforcement by November or December 2004. Ms. Werner reminds labs that to clear any suspension from last year and be recertified the lab needs to submit a letter to her.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that the PT contract is in the final stages and should be completed in 1 1/2 to 2 months. The contract will be posted on the Treasury's website. Ms. Werner has compiled any complaint letters about the current contract vendors that she received in-house.

NELAC Update: Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) reports that the NELAC 2002 Standards are being enforced. The major changes include the ISO 17025 language and that labs are experiencing problems adhering to the standards due to these changes. He handed out a summary sheet of major points which is also posted on the OQA website.

Dr. Mike Miller reiterated that the 2002 NELAC Standards became effective July 1, 2004. The standards will be enforced during the third round of inspections. He stated NELAC labs will probably require a new quality manual as there is a fundamental change in philosophy. The emphasis is on serving the customer's needs. Auditors will speak to your people bringing in the work. Labs will need to communicate with customers to discover their needs.

Dr. Miller stated there is a national NELAC meeting August 22nd. The INELA meeting will take place the same week. Dr. Miller explained that the function of NELAC is to review and adopt standards only. INELA is a standard writing group. The PT Board is part of NELAC and establishes SOP's.

Phil Worby (QC Labs) asked if there was any progress in accepting NYDOH as a PT Provider. Dr. Miller says there were no presentations to NELAC or AARB.

Dr. Miller says to check the NELAC website for the June water study rules. The PT board approves regular analytes for the Office of Water and the PT providers have 6 months to adopt.

Dr. Miller states NELAC has been attempting to standardize method codes, technology codes and analyte codes. The EPA will adopt the codes used by NELAC. New Jersey codes will remain but will be linked into the NELAC database. On the NELAC website the technology keys are posted. In September the method codes will be posted. There will be a code for every method. Analyte codes will include the CAS numbers.

Bioassay: No report.

By-Laws: No report

Communications and OQA Website: Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) says that the summary sheet outlining the major points of NELAC 2002 standards is posted on the OQA website bulletin board.

Tom Greci (ECM) had no further report for communications.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water/PWTA: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) states that the Drinking Water Round Table will probably be scheduled for November 12th. An agenda will be mailed out and will include an overview of the electronic deliverables and hopefully a demonstration by the consultant Enfotech. SDWIS and form changes will also be discussed. After lunch there will be a roundtable discussion on the morning's topics followed by a Total Coliform rule refresher, a PWTA update and talks on DBP Rule requirements and Radionuclide Monitoring requirements for Water Systems.

Ms. Bonnette answered the previous question on which chlorine test (free or total) should be used when sampling under the Disinfection Byproduct Rules for THMs. She stated that if disinfection is accomplished with chlorine then you can use either the free or total chlorine test. If the disinfection is accomplished with chloramines then use the combined or total residual chlorine test.

Ms. Bonnette read a statement from John Shepherd for the ELAC meeting. The content of this statement follows: The Private Well Testing Act (PWTa) is planning on shortly addressing many of the outstanding issues concerning the PWTa reporting form and the PWTa database. Specifically, many of these issues will be dealt with when the new PWTa database comes online in late spring/early summer of 2005. However, the PWTa Program realizes that several certified PWTa reporting laboratories currently have concerns regarding the PWTa Reporting Form. In particular, there have been concerns regarding the fact that exceedances for total coliform and initial gross alpha test results inadvertently trigger a test failure. Consequently, the PWTa Program is planning on conducting revisions in the near future to the current PWTa Reporting Form to aid in alleviating these concerns. Further information regarding this matter will appear in future editions of the PWTa Laboratory Advisory Bulletin, so please stay tuned.

Linda Bonnette states that you should refer your questions on the current PWTa form to John Shepherd or Rich Gunoskey. She states that under the PWTa program for a micro failure you need to have both a total coliform and E. coli failure. Sharon Ercoliani (STL-Edison) stated that under the public water coliform rules (which are based on a percentage) one sample is not a failure. She also stated that for Hunterdon and Warren counties there are local ordinances that make a positive coliform a failure which conflicts with the PWTa interpretation of a coliform failure.

Site Remediation: No report.

New Business

SQAR: Phil Worby announced that Marc Ferko has requested time in the September ELAC meeting to discuss updates to the SQAR testing requirements.

NJ Association: Phil Worby (QC Labs) asked if there was any interest in establishing a New Jersey Association of Accredited Environmental Laboratories similar to the Pennsylvania and New York Associations. He suggested that the Association would hold quarterly state meetings, which would include updates and information affecting the environmental laboratory community and relevant technology seminars with topics suggested from the members. Contact Phil Worby with questions.

Meeting Topics: Phil Worby encourages individuals with ideas for extra meeting topics to send him the information by email. He will make the arrangements.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM on September 9, 2004 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

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